

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Carers,

Year 9 Guided Choices

Thank you to all parents and students who accessed last night's Year 9 options evening presentations. We hope you found the presentations and the options booklets informative and helpful in supporting your child in making their course choices for next year. Any parents or students who were unable to access the presentations last night, can view recordings of the options process and each subject presentation from curriculum leaders on the [Year 9 Guided Choices page of our college website](#).



Focus on **YOUR FUTURE**

Year 9 Guided Choices

LIVE NOW

Students will be given a copy of the options booklet and form to bring home with them during PSHE today. Please take the time over the Christmas break to review the content, speak with your child about their future and support their final decision process.

The deadline for options forms to be returned to Mrs Thomas is Friday 12th January 2024.

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MRS COSTELLO
ACTING
HEADTEACHER

Are there trainers on Christmas lists?

We are conscious that some children may have asked for **new trainers** on their Christmas lists. If parents and carers are intending that these new trainers second as school shoes (which is perfectly understandable given the price of some of them!), please take a few minutes to double-check that they meet the clear guidance set out in our uniform policy, which can be viewed by [clicking here](#). Any trainers needs to be entirely black, with no colour logos, black full soles and 'polishable'.



Further to this, we would like to remind Parents and Carers of our PE Kit expectations. In the last few years we have trialled students wearing their PE kit on PE days in order to encourage participation and to ensure that our students are appropriately dressed for PE activities. **This has only been applicable for the current Year 7 and 8 students.**

Unfortunately there are too many students in Years 7 and 8 who are either wearing PE kit on non-PE days or who are wearing non-uniform PE kit items. In recent weeks this has resulted in a decline in the standards of uniform which we expect in school. We would ask that parents/carers support us to ensure that their son/daughter is appropriately dressed for school ensuring that they only wear their PE kit on days when they have **PE timetabled** (please note, this does not include drama). If you require a copy of the weekly timetable please contact the appropriate head of year via class charts or email ao@notredame.liverpool.sch.uk.

We will be reviewing the standard of uniform being worn and this will affect any changes to the current behaviour policy. We may need to revert to students bringing PE kits into school to change into on PE days if there is no improvement in current standards. Thank you for your support.

Upcoming Christmas Activities



We look forward to the festive activities we have planned next week. Our students will have the opportunity to attend our festive, Christmas Fayre next Wednesday during the school day. Each year group will have their own stall/s at the fayre as part of our Advent Fundraising activity. This year, we will be supporting Asylum Link, Liverpool, a local charity offering support to refugees. Please note that stalls will be cash only, so if your child would like to participate in the activities at the fayre, please ensure they bring monies into school that day. All monies raised will go to the charity.

FRI 15TH DEC
2023



NOTRE DAME
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Wednesday evening, we will also be hosting our annual Carols Service, **Carols by Candlelight**. This will take place 6.30pm - 8.30pm and feature the wonderful talents of our school choirs, orchestra and soloists. We are delighted to also be joined by All Saints Catholic Primary School choir on the evening - a real treat to share this event with one of our local primary schools. We hope to see you there supporting our students efforts!

We will be celebrating our final day of the Autumn Term with our annual, whole school Christmas sing-a-long on Friday 22nd December, with an early finish for all students. Rewards for positive behaviour and attendance will also be given on the last day of term.

End of term arrangements

As parents and carers will be aware, our Autumn term ends on **Friday 22nd December**. As in previous years, students will finish early on this final teaching day of the term, with all year groups **finishing at noon**. Year groups will leave via their normal exit points.

All students will return to school on Wednesday 10th January 2024.

WISHING EVERY NOTRE DAME FAMILY A PEACEFUL WEEKEND.

Yours faithfully

MRS COSTELLO

FRI 15TH DEC
2023



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Congratulations to our Values Stars!

This week, we have continued to share our Year Group Values Stars!
Congratulations to all.



Year 7
Amelia S

Year 8
Kail N
Nani H
Lily-Rose B

Year 9
Lucas M

Year 10
Owen H
Samuel D
Conrad A
James M



Year 7
Rene D

Year 8
Faith C
Ella R
Layla B
Kitty F

Year 9
Alex M

Year 10
Libby B



Year 7
Laura K
Ella- Louise B

Year 8
Angelo G

Year 9
Jason WD

Year 10
Conrad A
Kasper AD



Year 7
Emma D
Mateusz P

Year 8
Davi DOB
Cadence M

Year 9
Jeremy MM

Values Star and Attendance Prize Draws... 1 week to go!

Each student who has received the **values stars award** this term has had their name entered into a prize draw. This will take place next week and 1 student in each year group will receive a £30 gift voucher!

There is also one week left for students to successfully achieve **100% attendance** to be entered into our bumper prize draw for a £100 Asda Gift Voucher! Simply achieve 100% attendance next week and your name will be entered into the draw - **GOOD LUCK ALL!**

CAN YOU ACHIEVE

100%

ATTENDANCE

IN THE 10 SCHOOL DAYS LEFT UNTIL CHRISTMAS?

There will be a prize draw on the final day of term
for each Year Group (7-11) to WIN

£100 ASDA VOUCHER

per year group! GOOD LUCK!

Well done to Francoise!

This week, our Francoise form groups led our weekly assemblies, with students preparing and delivering their assembly to their entire year group.

This is an amazing opportunity for our students to develop their leadership skills, work together as a team and develop their **confidence** as they have the **courage** to stand in front of their peers to deliver their message.

Our students delivered messages centered around this week's **advent theme** of **PEACE**. Year 10 shared inspirational examples of how change can be made and injustices challenged through peaceful protest like the one Rosa Parks made by refusing to move from her seat on the bus, whilst Year 9 students developed a poem to share with their peers. (See right).



Year 11 Work Experience

We'd like to say a huge well done to all our Year 11 students for completing their work experience this week! This was for many of our students, their first taste of real-world experience. Students not only had to fulfil their duties on their work placements, but also had the responsibility to manage their schedules, ensuring they planned how to get to and from 'work' in a timely manner. This experience can help to build life skills for the next stage of their lives as they prepare to enter Higher Education or follow a new career path. We hope you all enjoyed the experience!

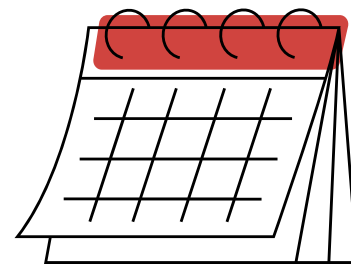


OPENING HEARTS

A Poem of Peace by 9 Francoise

*Peace and affection is everywhere
Just take a look and it'll be there
Here at Notre Dame, everyone is different
And that's what makes our community great
We all agree that there's no room for hate
We shouldn't bully in our school
We should be kind and follow the rules
Whatever your appearance
No one really minds
Peace is a world without violent wars
Peace is a world without closed doors
Peace is when sickness and disease don't exist
Peace is when there's no temptation to resist
Peace is a world with love
Peace is a world with patience
We should all learn to be selfless
And we should all learn to be gracious*

Dates for your diary - Parents Evenings



- **Year 7** Parents Evening will be on **Thursday 7th March 2024**
- **Year 8** Parents Evening will be on **Thursday 9th May 2024**
- **Year 9** Parents Evening **took place** on **Thursday 7th December 2023**
- **Year 10** Parents Evening will be on **Thursday 21st March 2024**
- **Year 11** Parents Evening will be on **Thursday 18th January 2024**
- **Sixth Form** Parents Evening **took place** on **Thursday 14th December 2023**

Further information including times will be shared nearer to the date.

Please be advised any changes to the above dates scheduled will be shared via ParentApp, Class Charts, our Newsletter and the school website.

Liverpool City Council Parent Newsletter



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW](#)

The Newsletter includes information on services that can support parents during the month of December and into the New Year.

- Family Hub and Children Centres
- December Events Across The City for Families
- Winter health support
- Childcare
- Debt Advice
- Domestic Abuse
- Education Wonderhub Activities
- Employment Support and Adult Learning opportunities
- Foodbanks
- Mental Health
- Money Management and Financial help
- Parenting Programmes
- Parental Mental Health
- Support for Fathers

Winter Half Term Club 2nd - 5th January - During half term Liverpool Lighthouse will be offering creative activities for children and young people aged 7-13. The week will be a load of fun games, exercises and drama scenes. The young people will develop confidence, skills and meet lots of new people and share the work they have created on the last day. A hot meal and snacks throughout the day will be provided for children participating to help families over the Christmas period. Food, drink and snacks will be provided for all children with a hot lunch served at 12:30pm every day. Time: 9-1pm each day To register, email: matt.rutter@liverpoolighthouse.com

Staying Safe Online - Online Bullying

We have been made aware of incidents on social media apps such as Snapchat, where students have made accounts associated with the school. Students are then posting photographs of other students on the app which has caused a lot of upset and distress.

We would ask all parents/carers to monitor their son/daughter's social media usage – particularly the groups they are using in each app. These groups are being used in a negative manner towards students and students who are posting inappropriate photos or messages will be dealt with using the school behaviour policy.

Students have also experienced photos being downloaded from their personal accounts on social media and used in a negative manner. Parents/carers need to help students to check their friendship lists and ensure their accounts have high security settings.

Parents and students are asked to report any inappropriate groups or users to the app provider. Further guidance can be found via the link below:

<https://www.nationalbullyinghelpline.co.uk/social-media.html>



Reporting bullying on social media platforms

We are focusing on this very serious issue and we are working closely with The Police, Facebook and other social media service providers, to work towards eliminating this unacceptable behaviour. If you are a parent, take positive steps to protect your child when he or she uses a mobile phone or a computer. There is a great deal you can do to safeguard your child.

If someone is bullying you via social media, the first thing you should do is block the person that's bullying you and report them to the social media site. Try to document the bullying with a screenshot of the message or photo as you may need this as proof. If your son or daughter is being cyberbullied on social media you should also talk to the school. The chances are that the bullying is not isolated to just social media. The school has a duty of care to look after and protect your child and they must be made aware of any concerns you have. Below we have detailed the steps to block or report a bully via some of the more popular social platforms.

How to report bullying on Snapchat



If you are receiving abusive or upsetting messages through Snapchat you should try and take a screenshot of the offending message. Snaps automatically disappear after the message has been viewed but you can still take screen shots and save them to your phone or computer. Snapchat will send a notification to the person that's sent the messages and in serious cases they could shut down the account of the bully. To report a message that's deemed as bullying or contains nudity go to:

I need help

Select - Report a safety concern

Pick - a snap or chat I've received - followed by - it contains nudity - or - it bullied me

Underneath the advice there is a box that says - still need help - Select this option and you will be directed to a form where you can explain more about what's happened.

If you are being bullied on Snapchat, blocking the bully will prevent them from sending any more abusive messages to you. Snapchat have instructions on removing and blocking friends.

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SAFEGUARDING UPDATES

If you feel a child is at risk (suffering harm, neglect or abuse) Any member of the public can contact Careline on 0151 233 3700 or Merseyside Police on 0151 709 6010

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

If you currently need support for your mental health or well being these are some of the organisations who are happy to listen and help:

Anxiety UK
03444775774 (Helpline)
075374160905 (Text)

Childline
0800 1111 (Free 24 hr helpline)

Papyrus Hotline (Under 35s at risk of suicide or concerned for another)
0800 068 4141 07786209697 (text)

The Mix (Support & Advice for under 25s)
0808 068 4994 85258 (Text THEMIX)

Young Minds
0808 803 5544 (Parent helpline)
85258 (Free 24hr crisis messenger, text YM)

Young Stonewall Information & support for young people who identify as LGBTQ
0800 050 2020

Samaritans Support for anyone who needs to talk
116 123 (Call)

Bullybusters
0800 169 6928
Please refer to the school website for further contact

REPORTING AN ISSUE ON SOCIAL MEDIA - A GUIDE

[Visit this guide here.](#)

If you feel a child is at risk (suffering harm, neglect or abuse) Any member of the public can contact Careline on 0151 233 3700 or Merseyside Police on 0151 709 6010



<https://ypas.org.uk/services/whats-on-calendar/>



DOMESTIC ABUSE/VIOLENCE

Please remember, in an emergency dial 999 for immediate assistance. You can call 999 without speaking then pressing 55, or tapping or coughing into the phone. This will enable police to respond. Women's Aid 0808 2000 247 (24 hr helpline) Men's Advice Line 0808 801 0327 Worst Kept Secret Helpline Merseyside

The Safeguarding Team

Acting Headteacher - Mrs AM Costello

Acting Deputy Headteacher / Designated
Safeguarding Lead - Mrs E Brennan

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads
Mrs J Littleboy - Director of Safeguarding Services
Mr A McVerry - Leadership - SENCO

PC P Wood - School Safer Police Officer
Miss H McCullen - Leadership/Alternative Provision
Mrs P Shrimpton - Attendance Officer
Mrs K Sweeney - Special Educational Needs
Mrs E Garvey Y7, Miss C Lee Y8, Ms R Glorman Y9, Mrs S Doran
Y10, Mrs S Styles Y11, - Pastoral Assistant Heads of Year